

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 411  
By Casada

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Joan Blackwell on her selection as Elementary School Teacher of the Year by Williamson County Schools.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Joan Blackwell is one such estimable educator who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Blackwell has recently been selected Elementary School Teacher of the Year by Williamson County Schools, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, Joan Blackwell received her Bachelor of Science degree from Henderson State University and a Master of Arts degree from Cumberland University; she has completed a total of 30 additional hours of graduate training at numerous universities; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Blackwell has served with acumen and alacrity as a middle and elementary school teacher for many exemplary years, most recently serving as the K-8 Gifted

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Education Consultant for Williamson County Schools, the responsibilities of which position she has performed with remarkable devotion and dexterity for nine years; and

WHEREAS, in her work, Joan Blackwell travels to several schools, meeting the special needs of gifted students at Grassland Middle School, Edmondson Elementary School, Kenrose Elementary School, and College Grove Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, not content to leave her most important work in the classroom, Ms. Blackwell is an active member of a number of professional associations, including the Tennessee Education Association, the National Education Association, the Tennessee Association for the Gifted, and the National Association for Gifted Children; and

WHEREAS, a leader in the field of gifted education, Joan Blackwell is dedicated to improving the educational experience available to gifted students; as such, she seeks to share her knowledge with other professional educators, developing, planning, and presenting county-wide workshops in a Gifted Education Workshop Series, leading sessions on Gifted Education at the Special Education Summer Institute, presenting research at the State Conference for Gifted Education, and serving as a mentor to newly-hired Gifted Consultants; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Blackwell is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; she truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Joan Blackwell truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Joan Blackwell on being chosen as Elementary School Teacher of the Year by Williamson County Schools, commend her

exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.